

2. ON A NEW BIRD FROM THE ISLAND OF MADAGASCAR.

BY DR. G. HARTLAUB, FOR. MEMB.

CUCULUS ROCHII, sp. nov. *Supra ardesiacus; gutture pallidius cinereo; pectore et abdomine in fundo albo-flavicanitibus, fasciis rarioribus angustis nigricantibus; subalaribus flavescenti-albidis, tenuissime ardesiaco fasciolatis; subcaudalibus ochraceis, maculis nonnullis nigris; rectricibus nigris, maculis rarioribus minutis albis prope scapam notatis, omnium apicibus albis; ala extus unicolore, nigricante, remigum pognonis internis albo fasciatis vel postice transversim maculatis; maxilla nigricante; mandibula flava, apice obscura; pedibus flavis.*

Long. 10–11"; rostr. a fr. 8"; al. 5" 11"; caud. 5" 7–8".

Syn. "*Cuculus canorus*, L., common at Madagascar," Desjardins, P. Z. S. 1832, p. 111. *C. tenuirostris*, Jules Verreaux, MS. (*olim*).

Nearly allied to certain Indian species, but in all probability distinct. In an old MS. of my friend Jules Verreaux I find an accurate description of this species, under the often misused name of *Cuculus tenuirostris*.

Named after Dr. S. Roch, who accompanied the mission sent last year by the Government of Mauritius to that of Madagascar.

3. NOTES UPON AUSTRALIAN SNAKES, AND THEIR GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION. BY GERARD KREFFT.

Acanthophis antarctica.—This species, very common in the neighbourhood of Sydney, ranges over the whole continent, the southern part of Victoria excepted. I have captured specimens on the banks of the Murray, on the Darling, and in South Australia; and there are specimens in the Museum collection from all parts of this colony, also from Queensland. Dr. J. E. Gray mentions, in the 'British Museum Catalogue,' that only the anterior dorsal scales are keeled; but a great number of specimens which I have examined had eight rows of the dorsal scales distinctly keeled to the root of the tail. The different specimens vary much in colour and markings.

Of *Hydridae* the Australian Museum is in possession of a good many different species, but without notes of the localities where they were captured. *Lapemis curtus* and *Pelamis bicolor* are frequently found on this part of the Australian coast. Of the last-mentioned species I captured a specimen some months ago in Botany Bay, containing five young ones.

Of *Boidea* we have only one species in this neighbourhood—*Morelia spilotes*, which is one of the most common Snakes found here. I think it is not generally known that the range of this species is very limited, and that it is only found within a radius of 200 or 300 miles from Sydney. On the Murray and Darling, in South and West Australia, and in the northern part of the continent, *Morelia variegata* represents the genus. I have never seen specimens of *Morelia spilotes* from the Clarence River, or from the country to

the north of it; and though inhabiting the Illawarra district, the range of this Snake does not extend beyond the Snowy Mountains.

Lialis childrenii.—The two specimens in the Museum collection were taken at Port Denison, Queensland. I do not know anything about the geographical distribution of this species.

Bolyeria multicarinata, of which mention is made in the 'British Museum Catalogue' as having been found at Port Jackson, does not exist in this neighbourhood.

Coronella australis is also rare in this part of the continent. The only specimen which ever came under my notice was found at King George's Sound.

Tropidonotus picturatus is not found in New South Wales. The only specimen in the Australian Museum collection was captured at Port Denison, Queensland.

Dendrophis punctulata.—Very common near Sydney; distributed over the whole continent, I believe.

Dipsas fusca has also a very extensive range, but is not so common as *Dendrophis punctulata*. No doubt it is on account of its nocturnal habits that it is not met with so often.

Glyphodon ornatus.—A very rare Snake in this neighbourhood; its geographical distribution is not known to me.

Diemansia psammophis.—An inhabitant of the north-east coast, where it represents

Diemansia reticulata, which is the most common Snake here. *D. reticulata* is also found in the northern part of Victoria, and on the banks of the Murray and Darling.

Diemansia milleri I consider to be a young individual of the above-mentioned species. I possess several specimens with rose-coloured streaks along the sides of neck and body, and I shall take an early opportunity of forwarding one to Dr. Günther.

Diemansia cucullata, Gthr.—An extremely rare species, of which I have never found more than three specimens in the immediate neighbourhood of Sydney.

Pseudo-elaps kudingii, Jan (Rev. Zool. 1859, p. 127), is merely a young individual of *Pseudonaja nuchalis*, from three to four years old.

Diemansia annulata is also an immature form of *P. nuchalis*, from one to two years old. I have captured four specimens this season.

Hoplocephalus variegatus.—A very common form in this neighbourhood, of the geographical distribution of which I do not know anything.

Hoplocephalus pallidiceps is no inhabitant of this neighbourhood. It is common on the Hunter and Clarence Rivers, and nocturnal in its habits.

Hoplocephalus coronatus.—The most common form of this genus in Western Australia; not found in New South Wales, nor on the Murray and Darling.

Hoplocephalus coronoides.—Frequently found near Sydney. I possess also specimens from Port Macquarie and the Clarence River.

Hoplocephalus curtus.—This species is very common, and inhabits the whole southern half of this continent. Specimens from Western

Australia are generally darker in colour, and have the bands more distinctly marked, than those found in Victoria and New South Wales.

Hoplocephalus superbus is not found in New South Wales. It is perhaps only a variety of *H. curtus*.

Hoplocephalus nigrescens.—A rare Snake. The few specimens I found of this species were all captured at Middle Harbour, an inlet of Port Jackson. I have never seen it from other parts of Australia.

Hoplocephalus temporalis I captured, more than two years ago, at Port Lincoln, South Australia. I have also seen specimens from Albany, King George's Sound. No doubt a great many more species of this extensive genus will be discovered; in fact, I know of three new ones already, which will be described shortly.

Pseudechis porphyriacus.—Inhabits the greater part of the continent in the north. The brown variety, with bright yellow or orange belly, is the most common. On the Lower Murray both varieties occur.

Pseudonaja nuchalis.—Common near Sydney, on the Hunter and Clarence Rivers.

Brachysoma diadema is also an inhabitant of this neighbourhood, and is frequently captured in the northern part of New South Wales and in Queensland.

Vermicella annulata.—Rarely obtained in this neighbourhood—I suspect, on account of its nocturnal habits. Found on the east coast, from Twofold Bay to Brisbane, and no doubt ranges still further north.

4. ON THE GENERA OF MOLLUSCA ESTABLISHED BY H. F. LINK IN THE CATALOGUE OF THE ROSTOCK MUSEUM. BY O. A. L. MÖRCH.

In the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society' for the year 1851 there is an abstract of the Catalogue of the Rostock Museum, by the late Dr. Herrmannsen, the continuation of which was prevented by his early death. Of the work, which appeared as a University program, only a few copies comparatively were distributed, the greater number having been preserved in the stores of the University. Oken appears to be the only naturalist who had any acquaintance with the work until it was mentioned in the 'Index Malacozoorum.'

The second part, containing the Mollusca, appeared on the 29th March 1807.

Lituina, Link, p. 84, is established upon *Nautilus spirula*, L.; Martini, i. t. 20. figs. 184, 185.

Ammonia, Breyn, has the priority.

The GASTEROPODA are divided into three sections—

1. *Diphonobranchii*, with a notch in the fore part of the aperture, corresponding to Lamarck's *Zoophaga*.
2. *Adelobranchii*, corresponding to Lamarck's *Phytophaga*.
3. *Dermobranchii*, containing the non-spiral shells, as *Calyptraea*, *Patella*, *Fissurella*, *Chiton*.